



California Department of Veterans Affairs

NEWS RELEASE

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CALIFORNIA AWARDS CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR STATE VETERANS CEMETERY

SACRAMENTO – October 21, 2004 – The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) announced today that Dale Construction, based in Redding, CA, has been awarded a \$6.6 million contract for construction of the Northern California State Veterans Cemetery in Shasta County.

"Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and I are very proud that the Northern California State Veterans Cemetery is today much closer to becoming a reality," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tom Johnson. "With Dale Construction beginning work on the cemetery, we are confident that the cemetery will be completed by the Veterans Day, November 11, 2005 target date. The men and women who have answered our country's call to duty deserve a proper final resting place of honor and dignity and that is what we will build in Shasta County."

Upon hearing that a local contractor had been awarded the construction contract, Senator Sam Aanestad (R-Grass Valley) made the following statement. "I'm pleased this project is coming to fruition and now look forward to seeing construction beginning very soon. It is exciting to see the hard work of so many people finally paying off for the veterans of the North State."

At a pre-construction meeting, Dale Construction indicated that the first element to be completed will be the administration complex. All necessary earthwork will start in April or May of 2005, if the weather permits. The California Department of General Services (DGS), assisted by the firms of Royston Hamamoto Alley & Abey (specialists in cemetery design), Hardison Komatsu Ivelich & Tucker (who have provided the building/structure designs), and Pace Engineering, will be responsible for the administration of this contract.

Construction of the Northern California State Veterans Cemetery is possible thanks to an \$8.5 million grant from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) Cemetery Grants Program and the hard work of CDVA, DGS, State, County, and Local elected officials, and California veterans and their service organizations across the state. This grant will cover 100 percent of the total allowable costs associated with the design, equipping, and construction of the cemetery.

The Northern California State Veterans Cemetery will be located on land donated to the State by Shasta County near the community of Igo. The Cemetery is a shared project between the USDVA, which has

now provided the funds for construction, and California, which will own and operate the cemetery. While the State will provide the overall management of the cemetery, Shasta County will provide funding and manpower for assistance in various maintenance and operation projects on an ongoing basis.

When completed by Veterans Day 2005, the Northern California State Veterans Cemetery will offer veterans and their eligible spouses and dependents five types of burials. These will include traditional in-ground, pre-cast vault, in-ground cremated remains, columbarium crypt, and a scatter garden for cremated remains. The USDVA will pay for interment costs for eligible veterans, inclusive of headstones, but all other costs associated with burials, such as funeral expenses, will be the responsibility of the veteran or the veteran's family. Funeral homes will be able to assist with these arrangements. For a complete description of burial benefits offered to veterans, please refer to the USDVA website at www.cem.va.gov or call 1-800-827-1000.

The USDVA's National Cemetery Administration is also in the process of establishing new national veterans cemeteries near Dixon and Bakersfield, California. According to Anthony J. Principi, Secretary for the USDVA, the acquisition of the land for the cemetery near Dixon is progressing well and construction funding for the first phase is included in the president's budget for fiscal year 2005.

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Note to editors: This News Release and previous CDVA news releases are available on our website at www.cdva.ca.gov and via e-mail from jaimeteaga@cdva.ca.gov.